



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department**

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011

**Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court
Honorable Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice**

January 20, 2012

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Executive Summary

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Probate and Family Court continued to work on the goals of making our court more efficient and accessible in a manner that promotes access to justice. Our mission is:

To deliver timely justice to the public by providing equal access to a fair, equitable, and efficient forum to resolve family and probate legal matters and to assist and protect all individuals, families, and children in an impartial and respectful manner.

Initiatives and Accomplishments of Fiscal Year 2011 in pursuit of our mission:

- ▶ Revamping of Guardian Ad Litem certification training programs for Category E (Evaluator) and F (Investigator).
- ▶ Improving the operation and systems for Department of Revenue/Child Support Enforcement court sessions.
- ▶ Participating in grants to improve the processing of IV-D child support matters. These grants focus on resolving child support cases through case conferencing, expediting child support modification cases, and providing parents with services that may assist them in providing support for their children, such as job training and education programs.
- ▶ Conducting training for Limited Assistance Representation certification and creating publicly accessible lists of certified attorneys, thereby increasing the options for litigants to obtain representation in Probate and Family Court cases.
- ▶ Collaborating with the District Court in pilot projects to better serve families where domestic violence restraining order (209A) cases are filed in the District Court and a pending case exists in the Probate and Family Court.
- ▶ Collaborating with Senior Partners for Justice in the review of Guardianship Care Plan reports.
- ▶ Conducting community outreach programs educating members of the public relative to the work the Probate and Family Court does.
- ▶ Rollout of upgrades to the case management system for the Trial Court, MassCourts.

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Initiatives and Improvements being planned for Fiscal Year 2012 include:

Promoting the Well-being of Children and Families:

- ▶ Completing an adult Guardianship video in collaboration with the Massachusetts Guardianship Association and Northnode. The video explains to potential guardians the court procedures and the obligations of a guardian, once appointed.
- ▶ Conducting training for volunteers who review and monitor adult Guardianship care plans.
- ▶ Implementation and training for the new Alimony law.
- ▶ Implementation and training for new Probate law, the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code.
- ▶ Implementation of new forms for Domestic Violence proceedings.
- ▶ Expansion of access to Parent Education for never-married parents.
- ▶ Conducting training regarding the process of making substituted judgment determinations including authorizing administration of antipsychotic medications for persons under guardianship determined to be incapable of making informed medical decisions.
- ▶ Developing initiatives to focus on the needs of never married parents including partnering with community services.
- ▶ Developing standards for Supervised Visitation fee generating appointments.
- ▶ Continuing mandatory training for GALs in Category E (Evaluator) and Category F (Investigator).
- ▶ Continuing participation in grants to improve the processing of IV-D child support matters. These grants focus on expediting child support modification cases and providing parents with services that may assist them in providing support for their children, such as job training and education.
- ▶ Exploring ways to provide counsel for children in high conflict custody cases.
- ▶ Expanding the pilots of Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences.

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Increasing Access to Justice:

- ▶ Utilizing volunteers to assist the Court and Guardians with reporting requirements in Guardianship of Incapacitated Person cases and continued collaboration with Senior Partners for review of Guardianship Care Plan reports.
- ▶ Continuing to improve the Probate and Family Court website including the Self-Help Center by adding forms that can be saved upon completion.
- ▶ Partnering to complete on-line self-help module for child support cases developed with a Technology Innovation Grant from Legal Services Corporation.
- ▶ Collaborating with the Guardianship Bar in developing a Guardianship of a Minor video.
- ▶ Continued Community Outreach in local communities and community colleges to educate the public about the work of Probate and Family Court.
- ▶ Continuing our Bench/Bar meetings to hear concerns of the local Bar and to engage in constructive solutions to help facilitate access to justice for all persons.

Improving Caseload Management

- ▶ Conducting Strategic Planning program about the future of Probate and Family Court with Bench and Bar, sponsored by Flaschner Judicial Institute.
- ▶ Developing Warrant Management protocol.
- ▶ Adopting “Identity Management” of court users through the MassCourts case management system.
- ▶ Developing a software system for management reports and analysis.
- ▶ Providing voice recognition software to all judges to facilitate drafting of findings and decisions.

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I. CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT

The Probate and Family Court continues to promote timely and just resolution of all matters before our Court. We are measuring our efforts to improve case management through the court metrics performance measures along with the other Trial Court Departments and the Administrative Office of the Trial Court.

A. Court Metrics

In Fiscal Year 2011, we continued to report our performance on four measures, (Court Metrics), to Chief Justice Mulligan. These measures were first developed in FY 2006 by Chief Justice Mulligan, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the Trial Court Departments. The measures established a set of four goals by which to evaluate court performance. The measures are based upon standards developed by the National Center for State Courts. The measures include:

1. Clearance Rate. The number of disposed cases as a percentage of the number of filed cases.
2. Time to Disposition. The percentage of cases disposed within the time periods established by the Time Standards, e.g., 14 months for Divorce.
3. Pending Cases. The number of cases still open beyond the Time Standards time frames.
4. Trial Date Certainty. The number of times cases are scheduled for trial.

B. MassCourts access for Department of Revenue (DOR)/Child Support Enforcement Division

Access to Court Data

The Department of Revenue (DOR), Child Support Enforcement Division, as part of the ISA contract with the Probate and Family Court, has 106 licenses for remote access to make docket checks on child support cases. The licenses use CITRIX software to provide the access. DOR/CSE staff can access MassCourts from their Regional Offices. This access lessens the case processing burdens on the court, thus allowing greater efficiency for DOR/CSE.

Child Support Conference

The annual federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) Regional Training Conference was held on September 22-24, 2010 in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Jodie Nolan, Judicial Case Manager of the Franklin Probate and Family Court, and Allison

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McCrone, Assistant Judicial Case Manager of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court, attended along with Kim Wright (Acting Court Administrator) and Christine Yurgelun (Manager of Administrative Services.). There were presentations about improvements to the income withholding (IWO) process (including proposed revisions to the IWO form), recent developments regarding paternity disestablishment, and the OCSE judicial training program and website. In addition, there was a discussion concerning the impact of health care reform on child support enforcement. It was noted that (nationally) 17% of custodial parents are fathers and 39% of parents are “never-married”.

IV-D Agency Grants

Case Conferencing

The Probate and Family Court received grant funding to expand our case conferencing pilot state-wide. In January 2010, Bristol began conducting case conferencing sessions. It is expected that by the end of FY 2012 case conferencing sessions will be held throughout the Divisions of the Probate and Family Court, except for Dukes and Nantucket.

Hampden - Parent Support Program

The Administrative Office continues to collaborate with the Department of Revenue on the parent support program conducted in the Hampden Division. Over the course of FY 2011, many changes were made to the program to increase enrollment. These changes include (1) expanding the program to include all of the block time sessions held in the Hampden Division; (2) targeting all establishment cases seen during block time instead of capping the number of potential project cases; (3) expanding eligible case types from new child support establishments to modification cases; (4) inviting all DOR case owners to make referrals to the program; (5) extending judicial orders to all unemployed noncustodial parents to participate in the program except in cases where safety is an issue; (6) conducting outreach to DOR case owners for cases; and (7) shortening the intake form to improve efficiency at court. From June 2010 through August 2011, 184 parents enrolled in the program.

Modification Pilot

The Probate and Family Court partnered with the Department of Revenue in obtaining a federal grant aimed at addressing the effects of the economic downturn on child support payments. A Modification Task Force was convened in March 2010 and submitted its recommendation for a pilot program in the Bristol Division to Chief Justice Carey. The pilot program outlined in Standing Order 3-11 explored the possibility of streamlining the modification process for child support and/or health insurance issues in the Probate and Family Court. The primary initiative of the pilot is that complaints for modification of child support and/or health insurance may be sent to the other party via first-class mail,

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rather than service in accordance with Mass. Dom. Rel. P. 4. In addition, streamlined forms are being introduced that focus specifically on child support and/or health insurance as well as combining the concept of a complaint for modification and a motion for temporary order onto one form. The effective date of Standing Order 3-11 is May 16, 2011

C. Forms

The Administrative Office continues to prepare fillable forms for the Probate and Family Court website to eliminate printing costs, and make them easily accessible to the public, including both members of the bar and self represented litigants. We have created forms for posting on the web that can be saved after completion. Approximately 80 new fillable forms have been developed for the implementation of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code.

D. IV-D Workload Analysis

The IV-D Workload Analysis conducted by the National Center for State Courts was completed in collaboration with DOR/CSE. The information gathered has been used to resolve outstanding issues between DOR/CSE and the federal government over reimbursed child support enforcement expenses. The project greatly benefited from the assistance of the Registers of Probate and their staff.

E. Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code: Estates

On March 31, 2012, major changes to Probate Law will go into effect as part of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code. A UPC Estate Working Group, established by Chief Justice Carey, consisting of Judges, court staff and practitioners worked hard throughout FY 2011 to pull together the numerous rules, procedures, protocols and forms required to implement what will be a wholesale systemic change in Probate practice. Dozens of training programs were conducted in FY11 for judges, court staff, and the bar.

II. PROMOTION OF THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A. Protecting those who are under Guardianship

New Forms

Two years after the implementation of Article V of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code, the Probate and Family Court developed new and revised forms for Guardianship and Conservatorship matters. All of the guardianship and conservatorship forms have been reviewed and, as a result of input received from the bench, court staff, the bar,

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various agencies and self-represented litigants, most of the forms have been revised in an effort to stream-line the information presented and reduce the burden on petitioners to the extent possible while maintaining the highest protection for the persons being placed under or currently under a guardianship or conservatorship.

Treatment with antipsychotic medication

The Guardianship Committee finalized the Standing Order for Review of Uncontested Rogers Orders and standardized relevant forms to authorize administration of antipsychotic medications for those persons under guardianship who have been determined to be incapable of making informed medical decisions for themselves.

Each First Justice identified at least one staff member to be the judicial designee assigned to process those annual reviews of court orders authorizing use of antipsychotic medications which are uncontested.

B. Mandatory Parent Education Programs

Divorcing Parents

The Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court conducted a review and reapproval process for all previously approved parent education providers. Any areas deemed insufficient on reapproval applications have been brought to the attention of the provider with recommendations being made to address each outstanding issue. Programs received provisional approvals pending observation of a two day session of the program by a court designee. The providers were granted authority to continue offering the programs while this review process is ongoing. All programs provided curriculum consistent with the direction of the Probate and Family Court.

The Administrative Office approved 71 providers of mandated Parent Education programs. All counties except Nantucket have at least one program available to litigants.

C. Pilot: Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences

Chief Justice Carey convened a group of judges, lawyers, and mental health professionals to address the increased animosity and high conflict being seen in the Probate and Family Court. The group created a pilot program that includes the use of Interdisciplinary Settlement Conferences. Each conference involves a neutral lawyer and mental health professional who will meet with the litigants and lawyers for the parties for one-half day. It is expected that the conferences will help parents resolve their differences with the help of qualified lawyers and mental health professionals so that settlements can be reached that withstand the test of time. The first conference was held on October 22, 2010. In FY 2011, three conferences were held. An additional three cases were scheduled for

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conferences but for various reasons the conferences were not held.

D. Continued Mandatory Training for Guardian Ad Litem

Fee Generating Appointments

In September 2009, Chief Justice Carey convened a group of attorneys and mental health professionals to review the educational trainings and continuing education requirements for Category E and F guardians ad litem. As a result of the recommendations of the group, any person who would like to be included in Categories E or F must take a mandatory 2-day training offered by the Probate and Family Court in conjunction with MCLE prior to submitting their application for approval.

Starting in 2011, any person on either the fee generating appointment list for Category E or Category F must take a mandatory training offered each year by the Probate and Family Court. A certificate of attendance must be submitted to the Probate and Family Court by December 31 of each year in order to remain on the fee generating appointment list. The topic for the yearly mandatory 3-hour training will vary each year. The mandatory trainings for 2011 were held in May, October, and November of 2011.

E. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Karen Levitt, an attorney, mediator, and member of the Trial Court Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution, made a presentation about Collaborative Law in May 2011 at the meeting of the Probate and Family Local Dispute Resolution Coordinators. Tim Linnehan, Acting Director of Support Services, also presented a review of the goals and accomplishments of the Standing Committee.

F. Title IV-D, Child Support

Training sessions collaboratively designed by representatives of the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS) and the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Revenue (DOR), provided registry staff an update concerning the revisions made by RVRS to the 209C form and processing requirements. Most sessions were held at courthouses to minimize the inconvenience to Registers and their staff while ensuring that important information was conveyed uniformly and effectively to court personnel who need to be aware of the changes because they may impact federal reimbursements concerning paternity establishments. Eight sessions were held at locations throughout the state in March 2011.

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G. National Adoption Day

On Friday, November 19, 2011 Massachusetts joined the rest of the nation in observation of National Adoption Day. This year's theme was "***Celebrating a Family for Every Child***". Seven sites in Massachusetts planned and enjoyed informative and joyous celebrations of the adoptions of 125 children from our foster care system. In total, more than 4000 adoptions of children from foster care were finalized throughout the country. Brockton was selected as the media site in Massachusetts this year. The Opening Ceremony included Hon. Roderick L. Ireland, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, Hon. Catherine P. Sabaitis, First Justice of the Plymouth Probate and Family Court, Hon. John P. Corbett, First Justice of the Plymouth County Juvenile Court, Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray, Commissioner Angelo McClain of the Department of Children and Families, Senator Daniel Wolf, Eliot Tatelman of Jordan's Furniture, and Jack Williams of WBZ News and founder of Wednesday's Child which celebrated 30 years of placements of children in adoptive homes this year. The legalization of 35 adoptions in Brockton was further highlighted by the Bridgewater-Rayhnam High School Marching Band.

Chief Justice Carey participated in the Opening Ceremony in Springfield. Many months of planning and many volunteers participated in these events. National Adoption Day is sponsored by the Massachusetts Court Improvement Program, a federally funded program administered by the Supreme Judicial Court. National Adoption Day organizers were MARE (Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange), DCF (Massachusetts Department of Children & Families), and the Juvenile and Probate and Family Court Departments. In addition to Brockton and Springfield, celebratory events were held in Hadley, Pittsfield, Salem and Worcester, Massachusetts. All sites offered children's activities and other entertainment.

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H. Standing Orders to provide procedures for access to case related information from the Department of Children and Families and the Court Activity Record Report.

Standing Order 1 – 11: Probate and Family Court's Use of Information Contained in the Court Activity Record Information (CARI) Report

Since the implementation of MassCourts, the Probation Department has been managing the identities of adult and child parties in cases referred to Probation for dispute intervention, investigations and supervision services. Frequently, Probation will find an identity that has an attached Probation Case File (PCF) number that indicates that CARI information exists. The design of the MassCourts application for the Probation Department is such that the PCF information is seen on the screen without having to search for it.

A committee of judges, probation staff and lawyers was convened in January 2009 to address the concerns that arose because of the readily available PCF and CARI information. Many believed that neither Probation nor the Court could ignore the fact that there is CARI information available related to cases that appear in the Probate and Family Court, understanding that due process protections must be put in place before this information can be considered by a judge. The committee met frequently over a period of months and ultimately recommended the process outlined in the Standing Order 1-11. The effective date of Standing Order 1-11 is June 1, 2011.

Standing Order 2-11: Probate and Family Court's Use of Information Obtained by the Department of Children and Families

On June 30, 2010, the Supreme Judicial Court issued its decision in Brantley v. Hampden Division of the Probate and Family Court Department, 457 Mass. 172 (2010). In the decision, the SJC invited the Probate and Family Court to promulgate a standing order to address the concerns raised in the Brantley decision. A Task Force of judges, probation staff, DCF management and lawyers began meeting in August, 2010 to consider a standing order regarding the Probate and Family Court's use of documents obtained from the Department of Children and Families. Standing Order 2-11 outlines a process for the Court to obtain documents from DCF, while providing the parties with an opportunity to review the documents and respond to any information about a party contained in the documents.

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III. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A. Providing Meaningful Access to the Courts for Pro Se Litigants

The Probate and Family Court Department has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that our Courts are accessible to all. In particular, because of the large number of litigants appearing in our court without attorneys, (*pro se*), we have many programs to ensure meaningful access to the Probate and Family Court. Among the programs in the Probate and Family Court are:

- Lawyer of the Day
- Family Law Self-Help Centers
- Family Law Facilitators
- Limited Assistance Representation
- Domestic Violence Assistance
- Pro Bono Counsel for Children
- GAL appointments in Elder Guardianship cases
- Counsel for Incapacitated Persons and Minors in Guardianship and Conservatorship cases.

B. Limited Assistance Representation

On April 10, 2009, the Supreme Judicial Court issued an order, effective May 1, 2009, “In Re: Limited Assistance Representation”. The Order provides that each Trial Court Department Chief Justice, may, with the approval of the Chief Justice for Administration and Management, make Limited Assistance Representation available in the Divisions of his/her Trial Court Department. The Probate and Family Court Department requested and received the approval to make Limited Assistance Representation available in all Divisions of the Probate and Family Court.

Limited Assistance Representation (LAR) is when an attorney represents or assists a litigant with part, but not all, of his or her legal matter. The attorney and litigant enter into a detailed agreement defining what tasks the attorney will be responsible for and what tasks the litigant will be responsible for.

In FY 11, LAR training was conducted at the Barnstable Probate and Family Court in collaboration with the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Barnstable County Bar Association.. There are approximately 900 attorneys certified to utilize LAR in the Probate and Family Court. A database of these attorneys has been created and lists of LAR certified attorneys have been sent to each Division of the Probate and Family Court.

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C. Website

We have revamped our website. The site is simple and easy to follow and loaded with information. We have put many of our forms on the site so that they are easy to retrieve. In FY 11, we were able to create a version of our forms that can be saved after downloading from the website.

IV. QUALITY OF JUSTICE

A. Implementation of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code

A new day is dawning on Probate law in Massachusetts. In 2012, Probate Law as we know it will change. The UPC Estate Task Force has been working since January of 2009 to digest the new law, develop procedures, new forms, rules and a training program to ensure an easy transition. The new law will streamline probate processes and require less paper work enabling staff to focus their efforts in other areas.

Judges Anthony Nesi, Elaine Moriarty, and Lisa Roberts along with Jennifer Rivera Ulwick and Evelyn Patsos developed a training curriculum for use in training judges, staff and the bar. On March 3 and 4, 2011, a Train the Trainer program was held for those who are conducting training. The next week staff trainings were held. Materials for the training programs were provided by MCLE. Lunch and a light breakfast was provided on all training days by the Massachusetts Bar Association. We greatly appreciate their support and their recognition of the dedication and commitment of Probate and Family Court staff. Special thanks go to President Denise Squillante and Chief Operating Officer Martin Healy.

MUPC Training sessions were conducted at the following locations and times:

March 16, 2011 UPC Day 1 Worcester Law Library, Worcester

March 18, 2011 UPC Day 1 UMass School of Law, Dartmouth

March 23, 2011 UPC Day 1 Suffolk University Law School, Boston

March 29, 2011 UPC Day 1 Brockton Trial Court Complex

May 19, 2011 UPC Day 2 UMass Medical School

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B. Judicial Conferences

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Judicial Education Meeting - October 1, 2010

Presentations: *Judicial Wellness: Strategies for Addressing Stress on the Bench ~ Daniel Brown, PhD, Dir. Center for Integrative Psychotherapy and Assoc Clinical Professor in Psychology @ Harvard Medical School*

Judicial Education Meeting - May 19 and 20, 2011

May 19: Joint meeting with Assistant Judicial Case Managers focusing on the *Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC); Standing Order 1-11 (Probate and Family Court's Use of Information Contained in the Court Activity Record Information (CARI) Report) and Standing Order 2-11 (Probate and Family Court's Use of Information Obtained by the Department of Children and Families)*

May 20: Joint meeting with Probation Officers with presentations on: *Special Immigrant Juvenile Cases - Ann Cooper and Jay McManus; Appellate Issues - Justices Ralph D. Gants and Barbara A. Lenk; End of Life Decision Making; When Therapists and Court Collide ~ AFCC Guidelines for Court-Involved Therapists ~ Justice Linda Fidnick, Justice Gail Perlman, and Linda Cavallero PhD and Clinical Assoc Professor of Psychiatry.*

C. Law Clerks

As of September 1, 2010, the Probate and Family Court had 6 law clerks to serve the fifty-one justices. All of the law clerks were located in the eastern part of Massachusetts. To ensure that all of the judges of the Probate and Family Court had access to the services of the law clerks, the law clerk was substantially reorganized. Each law clerk became responsible for the assignments generated in multiple divisions. All requests for assistance by judges were sent to the Administrative Office where it was determined which law clerk was best suited for the assignment. This reorganization was challenging. However, by incorporating suggestions of the law clerks and judges, the end result was a process that met the needs of the law clerks and judges as best we can with the limited resources available at this time.

In January 2011, one law clerk left the program for employment in the private sector, leaving five law clerks to service fifty-one justices.

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D. Formal Internship and Fellow Programs

In January 2011, the Probate and Family Court implemented the volunteer fellow and internship programs intended to address the ever pressing need for additional writing support for the judges of the Probate and Family Court. Both the volunteer fellow and interns work under the auspices of the law clerk program.

The Volunteer Judicial Fellowship program is open to recently admitted attorneys who have not yet secured employment, as well as attorneys who may have been impacted by the economic downturn and are currently unemployed. Participants in the volunteer judicial fellowship program are asked to commit to the program for 3-6 months, for a minimum of two days per week. Since January 2011, we have had five volunteer fellows. The interns were students at New England Law, Boston University, Northeastern, Suffolk and Massachusetts School of Law. During the summer 2011 session, the internship program had 8 full-time interns, representing Boston College Law School and Northeastern.

E. Newsletter

The Administrative Office commenced publication of a quarterly newsletter on-line to provide pertinent, interesting, and encouraging news to all Probate and Family Court Department employees.

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V. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

Judicial Retirements and Appointments

The following Judges retired from the Probate and Family Court during fiscal year 2011:

Hon. Robert Langlois, Norfolk Division
Hon. Stephen Steinberg, Plymouth Division
Hon. Gail Perlman, Hampshire Division
Hon. Mary McCauley Manzi, Essex Division
Hon. Elizabeth O'Neill LaStati- Bristol Division

The following Judges were appointed to the Probate and Family court during Fiscal Year 2011:

Hon. Katherine Field, Associate Justice, Middlesex Division
Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, Circuit Judge
Hon. Jeffrey Abber, Associate Justice, Middlesex Division
Hon. Patricia Gorman, Associate Justice, Middlesex Division

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VI. STATISTICS

The following charts detail the caseload statistics of the Probate and Family Court for fiscal year 2011.

Case Filings: FY 2011

Table 1 shows the total filings by case type for each Division of the Probate and Family Court. Table 1 also illustrates the percentage of each Division's caseload which is domestic cases and the percentage which is probate. Domestic cases include: Divorce, Paternity, Adoption, and Child Welfare. Probate cases include: All Probate case types, Equity, and Change of Name. Domestic and probate cases, with the exception of Guardianships, utilize the resources of the court in different ways. Probate cases often involve more paperwork and less courtroom time, while domestic cases will likely be the opposite. Domestic cases have high percentages of *pro se* petitioners, so a high percentage of domestic cases will mean larger numbers of *pro se* litigants in a division.

Case Filings: FY 2005-FY 2011

Table 2 shows filings for the last six fiscal years. The total case filings of the Probate and Family Court have increased by 5 per cent. The number of "Domestic" cases has increased, while the number of "Probate" cases has decreased. Larger numbers of "Domestic" cases means more *pro se* litigants, more court appearances, more paperwork filed, and generally an increase in the workload of the Probate and Family Court.

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DIVISION:	BARN	BERK	BRIS	DK	ESSEX	FRAN	HAMD	HAMP	MIDD	NT	NORF	PLYM	SUFF	WORC	TOTAL
Administration & Probate of Will	1,780	699	1,721	128	2,510	366	1,633	608	5,094	72	2,601	1,843	1,554	2,818	23,427
Accounts and Other Probate	1,027	424	871	65	1,435	204	1,309	728	2,972	46	1,988	911	1,303	1,448	14,731
Change of Name	116	73	185	15	334	41	206	106	708	7	329	161	464	425	3,170
Guardianship and Conservatorship	372	201	978	20	1,072	105	957	211	1,853	6	713	685	1,090	1,399	9,662
Equity	83	18	69	9	140	12	56	19	177	4	104	68	168	105	1,032
Total Probate, Equity, and Change of Name	3,378	1,415	3,824	237	5,491	728	4,161	1,672	10,804	135	5,735	3,668	4,579	6,195	52,022
Adoption and Child Welfare	95	41	103	5	151	26	101	54	391	2	132	114	160	223	1,598
Divorce, Sep. Support and other Dom. Rel.	1,207	633	2,396	80	3,406	366	2,053	542	5,461	131	2,146	2,117	2,793	4,114	27,445
Paternity	526	432	2,614	24	2,555	224	2,437	295	2,272	11	992	1,394	2,927	3,160	19,863
All Contempt	1,045	531	1,857	59	2,554	249	1,565	348	3,445	28	2,213	1,942	1,565	2,902	20,303
All Modification	1,111	912	2,339	64	3,754	497	4,325	707	4,265	34	2,369	2,076	3,136	5,160	30,749
Abuse Prevention	366	133	442	4	322	66	768	39	161	0	296	648	206	537	3,988
Total Domestic Relations and Child Welfare	4,350	2,682	9,751	236	12,742	1,428	11,249	1,985	15,995	206	8,148	8,291	10,787	16,096	103,946
Percentage 'Probate'	43.7%	34.5%	28.2%	50.1%	30.1%	33.8%	27.0%	45.7%	40.3%	39.6%	41.3%	30.7%	29.8%	27.8%	33.4%
Percentage 'Domestic'	56.3%	65.5%	71.8%	49.9%	69.9%	66.2%	73.0%	54.3%	59.7%	60.4%	58.7%	69.3%	70.2%	72.2%	66.6%
Total Cases Filed	7,728	4,097	13,575	473	18,233	2,156	15,410	3,657	26,799	341	13,883	11,959	15,366	22,291	155,968

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CASE TYPE	FY 2005 Filings	FY 2006 Filings	FY 2007 Filings	FY 2008 Filings	FY 2009 Filings	FY 2010 Filings	FY 2011 Filings
Admin & Prob. of Will	22,316	21,716	21,536	20,977	20,351	23,318	23,427
Trusteeship	818	426	405	460	399	249	281
Gdn of Minor	4,440	4,747	4,803	4,746	4,652	3,956	4,076
Gdn of Mentally Ill	3,051	3,118	3,029	2,975	2,617	n/a	n/a
Gdn of Mentally Ret.	1,123	996	982	1,084	1,009	n/a	n/a
Gdn of Incapacitated	545	482	542	483	477	3,435	3,867
Gdn of Minor Ent.	23	24	25	23	0	0	0
Conservatorship	117	112	136	113	181	2,448	1,719
Accounts and Dist.	15,312	15,733	14,982	14,855	14,268	13,606	13,135
Real Estate Sales	1,942	1,796	1,641	1,398	691	1,542	1,253
All other	3,554	3,050	3,160	3,167	4,208	127	62
Equity	1,188	1,315	1,168	1,290	1,194	965	1,032
Change of Name	2,705	2,856	3,126	3,205	3,023	3,128	3,170
Proxy Guardianships	12	8	12	12	9	0	
ALL "PROBATE"	57,146	56,379	55,547	54,788	53,079	52,774	52,022
All CHILD WELFARE	2,100	1,822	1,992	1,966	1,847	1,552	1,598
Paternity Complaint	17,494	19,510	20,147	22,025	23,850	19,589	19,863
Contempt	8,046	8,621	8,613	8,047	-----	-----	-----
Modification	11,043	12,313	13,452	15,048	-----	-----	-----
ALL PATERNITY	36,583	40,444	42,212	45,120	-----	-----	-----
Divorce	19,524	20,484	21,146	21,067	21,232	23,863	23,896
Sep Sup	1,692	1,671	1,732	1,846	1,883	2,314	2,269
Contempt	13,031	13,522	13,974	13,366	-----	-----	-----
Modification	12,883	13,357	13,723	14,655	-----	-----	-----
ALL DIVORCE	47,130	49,034	50,575	50,934	-----	-----	-----
ALL MODIFICATION*	23,926	25,670	27,175	29,703	33,687	29,627	30,749
All CONTEMPT*	21,077	22,143	22,587	21,413	22,199	21,081	20,303
Protection From Abuse	5,323	4,853	4,564	4,505	4,318	4,453	3,988
Minors/w/o Delay	661	772	871	851	860	902	826
All Other Dom. Rel.	1,269	1,292	1,420	1,431	1,570	101	454
Total Probate, Equity, and Change of Name	57,146	56,379	55,547	54,788	53,079	52,774	52,022
Percentage Probate	38.0%	36.5%	35.3%	34.3%	32.3%	33.8%	33.4%
Total Child Welfare, and "Family"	93,066	98,217	101,634	104,807	111,446	103,482	103,946
Percentage "Family"	62.0%	63.5%	64.7%	65.7%	67.7%	66.2%	66.6%
Total All	150,212	154,596	157,181	159,595	164,525	156,256	155,968

*Summary of Contempt and Modification for years prior to FY 09 for comparative purposes only.